

In Session Audio – World Percussion Creator \$139.99



> In Session Audio return for the third in their 'Creator' series of percussion-based instrument libraries. Once again it's not untrodden territory in sonic terms, but the devil is in the detail – for any given drum there are almost infinite variations in the tone, playing style and means of capture. However, ISA aim to make the creation of convincing percussion tracks as painless as possible, whilst ensuring there is enough flexibility for those who like to tweak. World Percussion Creator uses a similar Kontakt-based engine as the previous Taiko and Dramatic libraries, and, again, first impressions are of a great looking, easy-to-navigate interface. Multiple pairs of keys trigger a layer of up to nine single sounds, with further notes adding single hits from an extended category that takes in atmospheres and other noises. All samples are again of a high quality and have been captured with plenty of variations and multiple mics.

A strong set of Snapshots are included – each with excellent pre-programmed patterns that are easily dragged into your DAW. Initially you might be forgiven for thinking that this instrument library is focused on a more cinematic sound, but dialling back the reverb and using just the mixer section for balancing proved that it is also capable of more intimate percussion parts. Another excellent product from In Session Audio. **Bruce Aisher**
insessionaudio.com

VERDICT 9.0

Roland Cloud Juno-60 £138 or as part of a Roland Cloud Subscription

> Roland's Juno range first hit the streets in the early '80s with the Juno-6. Since then the Juno name has been used by Roland for synths that sit in the tier 2 of their range – often reflected in more limited architecture. However, when it comes to the Juno-6/60, it'd be a mistake to dismiss them as B-team players. These Junos employed DCO (Digitally Controlled Oscillators), which meant their tuning remained rock solid from the moment they were switched on.

Of course, that meant that some of the 'charm' associated with other analogue oscillator designs was lost, but for any serious gigging musician

this was a big advance. Those who wanted to delve deep into synthesis would also be disappointed, as they were also limited in this area when

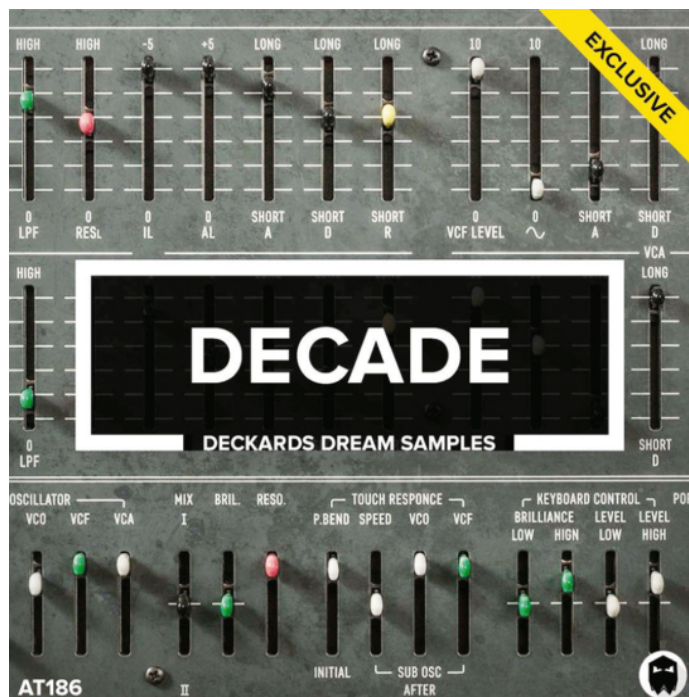


weighed against the dual-osc/ envelope design of the major polysynths of the era. But the early Junos all succeeded for two reasons – they were affordable and sounded great. This is still true, and thankfully Roland have introduced a virtual version so we can all enjoy classic straightforward sound. As with other recent Roland software, the graphics are clunky in places, but the sound (including the essential chorus effect) is there, plus a few enhancements. Some may bemoan Roland's current software-only approach to recreating their classics, but the Juno-60 is both affordable and fun. **Bruce Aisher**
rolandcloud.com

VERDICT 8.8

Audiotent – Decade

Standard: £27 MIDI: £17 Deluxe: £37



> You could pick up one of the Black Corporation's iconic Deckard's Dream synths, after parting with a few grand. Or, you could harness the power of its polyphonic splendour through this cost effective pack, exclusive to Audiotent. The library of sounds, taken from the fabled unit itself, have been lovingly run through a cool and covetable set of effects pedals (Moogerfooger Cluster Flux, anyone?) for maximum oomph. From epic pads to arpeggiated rhythms, the moment you hear these 107 wet and dry riffs fired up, you'll get why this is such a cherished piece of kit. 107 optional MIDI files are also here, if you fancied mixing up these fine melodic loops with your own hard or soft synths. Essential. **Roy Spencer**

audiotent.com

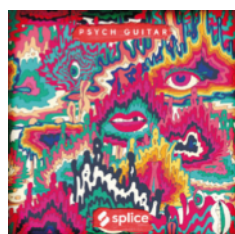
VERDICT 9.0



Renegade Audio – Retro Funk Vocals £29.95

> Want some super groovy retro vocals that are always on 'The One'? This superb (ie good) set of hip-shakin' hooks, riffs, party-starting choruses, and other solid gold singing parts, are fully inspired by the feel-good funk of the swinging '70s. And the whopping 6.69GB of loops and song kits in this collection give you all you need to bring that magical moment in musical history back to life. World class vocalist Selena Evangeline, who has shared stages with everyone from Patrice Rushen to Jocelyn Brown, has been recorded here with a chain inspired by the era. So, Capitol Records's famed echo chamber has been emulated, and classic FX like the Harmonizer have been copied for maximum vibes. **Roy Spencer** loopmasters.com

VERDICT 8.0



Splice Originals – Psych Guitar \$7.99/mo

> Spin out squares with this mind-bending dose of kaleidoscopic samples. Dealt out by guitarist, composer, singer, and producer, Omalii (who often sits in with The Roots on *Fallon*, fact fans). The loopy loops in this psychedelic shack take in drones, muted riffs, melodic orchestral stacks, and fuzzy feedback galore. Borrowing liberally from the garage rock era, and the tune in/drop out funk scenes of the late '60s, these choice nuggets will get freaky deep with any lo-fi producers wanting a drop or two of that spaced out sound. Each layer works favourably with the next, adding dreamlike atmospheres as you build. And tempos hold it down at a chilled 80, up to a sweat-inducing 120. Far out! **Roy Spencer** splice.com

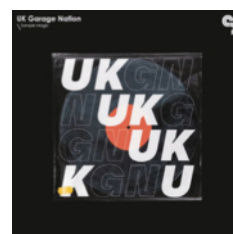
VERDICT 8.0



ZTEKNO – Ethnic Techno £23.95

> Let's look further afield for inspiration and try some moody, mysterious electronica, full of the heart and history of the Slavic experience. Greek/Bulgarian singer, Sheri Marshel, is at the core of this 2.62GB collection. And her elegant, soaring, enigmatic vocals (also handily transcribed into English) are the perfect accompaniment to the solid techno sounds, samples and patches, inside. The key-labeled loops are all recorded at a steady 128bpm, in 24-bit quality. The drums loops and hits are supremely heavyweight. The tops and perc, pulsing. And all 340 files form a bedrock around which the other dreamy and driving synths, basses, chords, strings, and pads swirl. Inspired. **Roy Spencer** loopmasters.com

VERDICT 8.0



Sample Magic – UK Garage Nation \$7.99/mo

> In a time when people got dressed up to go clubbing, and swigging from a champagne bottle was the thing to do on the dancefloor, garage music was the sound of the UK. Its skippy drums, bubblin' basslines, and general coked-up energy, provided the groove before dubstep and grime took over. Sample Magic are pulling up a re-e-wind on that era, and serving up all the bits and bobs you'll need to make your own 2-step banger. These 273 loops provide all the necessary percussion shuffles, classy chords and piano sounds, rinse out subs, and smooth R'n'B chatter to have you whipping up a wicked tune that'll have the club spilling bubbly all over their shoes again in no time. **Roy Spencer** splice.com

VERDICT 8.0